



Unique fauna of Aruba



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

FRIDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

PREMIUM
BRANDS

SATURDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR



Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort



NANKI
at BABY BEACH ARUBA

PRE-CONSTRUCTION PRICES

+ (297) 594.6395

Aruba's 1st
Condo Building &
Boutique Condo Hotel
at Baby Beach

nankibeacharuba.com

projects by **PANA**

Plane with 6 aboard crashes in Philadelphia, setting homes ablaze and unleashing a fireball

By Michael Sisak and Matt Rourke

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A medical transport jet carrying a pediatric patient and five others slammed into a Philadelphia neighborhood about 30 seconds after taking off on Friday, erupting in a fireball and engulfing several homes in fire.

Mayor Cherelle Parker said Wednesday night at a news conference that information on fatalities wasn't immediately known but several homes and vehicles had been damaged.

"This is still an active scene under investigation," she said. A doorbell camera captured footage of the plane plunging in a streak of white and exploding as it hit the ground near a shopping mall and major roadway. The crash came just two days after the deadliest U.S. air disaster in a generation.

"All we heard was a loud roar and didn't know where it was coming from. We just turned around and saw the big plume," said Jim Quinn, the owner of the doorbell camera.

The crash happened less than 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from Northeast Philadelphia Airport, which primarily serves business jets and charter flights.

The plane, a Learjet 55, quickly disappeared from radar after taking off from the airport at 6:06 p.m. and climbing to an altitude of



First responders work the scene after a small plane crashed in Philadelphia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)



Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker speaks during a news conference in Philadelphia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

1,600 feet (487 meters). It was en route to Springfield, Missouri, and registered to a company operating as Med Jets, according to the

flight tracking website Flight Aware.

On Wednesday night, an American Airlines jet carrying 60 passengers and four crew

members collided in midair in Washington, D.C., with an Army helicopter carrying three soldiers. There were no survivors in that crash.

Gov. Josh Shapiro said he is offering all "Commonwealth resources as they respond to the small private plane crash in Northeast Philly."

A continuous stream of police vehicles and fire trucks initially poured into the scene, taking over business parking lots as emergency responders to the crash and fire directed people away and set up a perimeter stretching blocks in each direction. Within about an hour, the cry of sirens and shouted orders had faded into relative quiet at the edges of the closed-off area, and darkness settled in as drivers passing by peered out trying to see what was happening.

The plane crashed in a busy intersection near Roosevelt Mall, an outdoor shopping center in the densely populated neighborhood of Rhawnhurst.

One cell phone video taken by a witness moments after the plane crashed showed a chaotic scene with debris scattered across the intersection. A wall of orange glowed just beyond the intersection as a plume of black smoke quickly rose into the sky and sirens blared.

Michael Schiavone, 37, was sitting at his home in Mayfair, a nearby neighborhood, on Friday when he heard a loud bang and his house shook. He said it felt like a mini earthquake and when he checked his home security camera footage, he said it looked like a missile was coming down.

"There was a large explosion, so I thought we were under attack for a second," he said. The plane's owner, Jet Rescue, provides global air ambulance services. The company, based in Mexico, flew baseball hall of famer David Ortiz to Boston after he was shot in the Dominican Republic in 2019 and was involved in transporting patients critically ill with COVID-19.

A message seeking comment was left with Jet Rescue's U.S. headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida.

The FAA said the National Transportation Safety Board will lead the investigation. The NTSB, which investigates air crashes, said it was gathering information about the crash. □



First responders work the scene after a small plane crashed in Philadelphia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)



First responders work the scene after a small plane crashed in Philadelphia, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

White House says Trump tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China will come Saturday

By **ZEKE MILLER, AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will put in place 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico and 10% tariffs on goods from China effective on Saturday, the White House said, but it provided no word on whether there would be any exemptions to the measures that could result in swift price increases to U.S. consumers.

Trump had been threatening the tariffs to ensure greater cooperation from the countries on stopping illegal immigration and the smuggling of chemicals used for fentanyl, but he has also pledged to use tariffs to boost domestic manufacturing and raise revenues for the federal government.

"Starting tomorrow, those tariffs will be in place," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Friday. "These are promises made and promises kept by the president."

The tariffs carry both political and economic risks for Trump, who is just two weeks into his second term. Many voters backed the Republican on the promise that he



White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, in Washington.

could tamp down inflation, but the possibility of tariffs could trigger higher prices and potentially disrupt the energy, auto, lumber and agricultural sectors.

Trump had said he was weighing issuing an exemption for Canadian and Mexican oil imports, but Leavitt said she had no information to share on the president's decision on any potential carveouts.

The United States imported almost 4.6 million barrels

of oil daily from Canada in October and 563,000 barrels from Mexico, according to the Energy Information Administration. U.S. daily production during that month averaged nearly 13.5 million barrels a day.

Trump has previously stated a 10% tariff on Chinese imports would be on top of other import taxes charged on products from the country.

Shortly after Leavitt spoke,

the S&P 500 stock index sold off and largely erased its gains on the day.

"We should expect all three countries to retaliate," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator.

China responded aggressively to tariffs Trump imposed on Chinese goods during his first term, targeting the president's supporters in rural America with retaliatory taxes on U.S. farm exports.

Both Canada and Mexico

have said they've prepared the option of retaliatory tariffs to be used if necessary, which in turn could trigger a wider trade conflict that economic analysts say could hurt growth and further accelerate inflation.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday that Canada is ready to respond if Trump goes ahead with the tariffs, but he did not give details.

"We're ready with a response, a purposeful, forceful but reasonable, immediate response," he said. "It's not what we want, but if he moves forward, we will also act."

Trudeau said tariffs would have "disastrous consequences" for the U.S., putting American jobs at risk and causing prices to rise. Trudeau reiterated that less than 1% of the fentanyl and illegal crossings into the U.S. come from Canada.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Friday that Mexico has maintained a dialogue with Trump's team since before he returned to the White House, but she emphasized that Mexico has a "Plan A, Plan B, Plan C for what the United States government decides." □

Associated Press

Trump administration moving to fire FBI agents involved in investigations of Trump, AP sources say

By **ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trump administration officials are moving to fire FBI agents engaged in investigations involving President Donald Trump in the coming days, two people familiar with the plans said Friday.

It was not clear how many agents might be affected, though scores of investigators were involved in various inquiries touching Trump. Officials acting at the direction of the administration have been working to identify individual employees who participated in politically sensitive investigations for possible ter-

mination, said the people who insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The terminations would be a major blow to the historic independence from the White House of the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency and would reflect the Trump's determination to bend the law enforcement and intelligence community to his will. It's part of a startling pattern of retribution waged on federal government employees, following the forced ousters of a group of senior FBI executives earlier this week as well as a mass firing by the Justice Department

of prosecutors on special counsel Jack Smith's team who investigated Trump.

The FBI Agents Association called the planned firings "outrageous actions by acting officials are fundamentally at odds with the law enforcement objectives outlined by President Trump and his support for FBI Agents."

"Dismissing potentially hundreds of Agents would severely weaken the Bureau's ability to protect the country from national security and criminal threats and will ultimately risk setting up the Bureau and its new leadership for failure," the association said in a statement.

The FBI and Smith's team investigated Trump over his efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election and

his hoarding of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. □



Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters is seen in Washington, Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

About half of Americans approve of using weight-loss drugs to treat obesity, AP-NORC poll finds

By **KENYA HUNTER and LIN-LEY SANDERS**
AP Health Writer

More U.S. adults believe it is a good thing than a bad thing for adults to use weight-loss drugs like Ozempic, Wegovy and other brands if they are struggling with obesity or have a health condition tied to weight, but they are not broadly supportive of teens who have obesity using the medications, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

When it comes to ages 12 to 18 who are dealing with obesity, Americans are divided: About one-third say the use of weight-loss drugs in this context is a "very" or "somewhat" good thing, a similar share say it's a bad thing and about 3 in 10 say it isn't good or bad.

For adults, about half think it's a good thing, and about 2 in 10 think it's a bad thing. The popular weight-loss drugs known as GLP-1 receptor agonists, which were originally meant to treat diabetes, surged in popularity after the Food and Drug Administration approved them for weight loss in 2021. Now, they're all over the place celebrities, TV advertisements, social media, news media, your neighbor.



A woman holds up a dosage of Wegovy, a drug used for weight loss, at her home in Front Royal, Va., on March 1, 2024.

Doctors and researchers say the injectable drugs are an effective tool when it comes to treating obesity. The American Medical Association has urged health insurance companies to cover the drugs, and the American Academy of Pediatrics has said that doctors should consider giving the medications to kids 12 and older who are struggling with obesity. The AP-NORC poll results indicate that even as doctors urge the drugs' use, some Americans continue to have concerns about

weight-loss drugs, particularly for teens and people who aren't struggling with obesity.

Using obesity drugs

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 100 million adults in the U.S. are obese defined as having a body mass index of 30 or higher and more than 22 million adults are severely obese, with a BMI of 40 or higher.

Obesity is classified as a chronic disease that needs medical attention, because it can result from ge-

netics, environmental factors and socioeconomic factors. Patients who use the drugs as an extra boost to lose weight can face criticism that they're somehow "cheating," said Dr. Cate Varney, who treats patients with obesity at UVA Health in Charlottesville, Virginia. "It's like telling somebody to nail a nail into a board and then giving one person a hammer and another person, you know, like a chopstick," Varney said, adding, "we're leveling the playing field with these medications."

Anjanette Ewen lost 67 pounds on Mounjaro, and credits that weight loss as the reason she found a cancerous lump on her breast. The 50-year-old from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, who responded to the AP-NORC poll, said she had struggled to lose weight for years because of complications with polycystic ovarian syndrome. Because of PCOS, which has a common symptom of sudden weight fluctuations, Ewen went from 150 pounds to 220 pounds in eight months.

"I've been on a weight loss journey for forever, it seems like, and nothing was working," she said.

About 20% of children in the U.S. have obesity, according to CDC data. Dr. Gitanjali Srivastava, the medical director of obesity medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, said obesity is easier to treat in children than in adults.

"The youth actually respond beautifully to these medications," she said, adding that obesity at a young age increases the chance "of having even severe and more profound obesity as an adult ... to the point that you will actually have to have medications and or bariatric surgery as an adult." □

Associated Press

Boy, 5, dies in hyperbaric chamber explosion at Michigan medical facility



A hyperbaric chamber at the Oxford Center in Brighton, Mich., is shown Feb. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

TROY, Mich. (AP) — A pressurized oxygen chamber exploded Friday, killing a 5-year-old patient and injuring his mother at a suburban Detroit medical facility.

The hyperbaric chamber explosion occurred about 8 a.m. at the Oxford Center in Troy, north of Detroit.

The child, from Royal Oak, Michigan, had been inside the machine and was pronounced dead at the scene.

"The mother of the child suffered some injuries to her arms as she was standing right next to the chamber as the explosion occurred," Troy police Lt. Ben Hancock said. "We don't know exactly what the child was being treated for at the center today."

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy increases the

delivery of oxygen to a person's body by providing pure oxygen in an enclosed space with higher than normal air pressure, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The Mayo Clinic says the therapy includes treatment for decompression sickness, serious tissue disease or wounds, trapped air bubbles in blood vessels, carbon monoxide poisoning, and tissue damage from radiation therapy.

Hyperbaric chambers contain 100% oxygen, which is up to five times the amount of oxygen in a normal room, Troy Fire Lt. Keith Young said Friday at a news conference. "The presence of such a high amount of oxygen in a pressurized environment can make it extremely combustible," Young said. □



Then former President Donald Trump speaks next to Richard Grenell during a presidential election campaign event at a farm in Smithton, Pa., Sept. 23, 2024.

Associated Press

Senior Trump official travels to Venezuela for talks on migrants

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A senior Trump administration official traveled Friday to Venezuela to urge President Nicolás Maduro's government to take back deported migrants who have committed crimes in the United States and release a handful of imprisoned Americans.

The visit by Richard Grenell, who U.S. President Donald Trump appointed as an envoy for special missions, may come as a surprise to some Venezuelans who hoped that Trump would continue the "maximum pressure" campaign he pursued against the authoritarian Venezuelan leader during his first term.

Mauricio Claver-Carone, Trump's special envoy to Latin America, confirmed Grenell's visit to Caracas in a conference call with journalists on Friday. He said Grenell, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Germany and acting director of national intelligence during Trump's first term, was in Venezuela on a "very specific mission" that in no way detracts from the Trump administration's goal of restoring democracy in the South American nation.

"I would urge the Maduro government, the Maduro regime in Venezuela, to heed special envoy Ric Grenell's message," said Claver-Carone, himself a former top national security aide to Trump during his first administration. "Ultimately there will be consequences otherwise." Hours later, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt addressed Grenell's trip but declined confirm if he was meeting directly with Maduro.

The visit comes less than a month after Maduro was sworn in for a third six-year term despite credible evidence that he lost last year's election by a more than 2-to-1 margin. The U.S. government, along with several other Western nations, does not recognize Maduro's claim to victory. Electoral authorities loyal to the ruling party declared Maduro the winner of the July election hours after polls closed without providing detailed vote counts, unlike in previous elections.

Meanwhile, the country's main opposition coalition collected tally sheets from 85% of electronic voting machines showing that its candidate, Edmundo González, won by a more

than a two-to-one margin. Spokespeople for González and his campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Grenell's visit.

The dispute over the election results sparked nationwide protests. More than 2,200 people were arrested during and after the demonstrations.

Among those detained are as many as 10 Americans who the government has linked to alleged plots to destabilize the country. One of them is a Navy SEAL. □

Iraq arrests former security official over execution of Shiite cleric who opposed Saddam Hussein

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's National Security Agency said Friday it arrested a former high-level security official for his involvement in the 1980 execution of a prominent Shiite cleric and his sister during Saddam Hussein's brutal crackdown on religious opposition.

Mohammad Baqir al-Sadr was a leading Iraqi Shiite cleric and political critic who opposed the secular Ba'athist government of the former Iraqi president. His opposition intensified following the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, which heightened Saddam's fears of a Shiite-led uprising in Iraq.

In 1980, as the government moved against Shiite activists, al-Sadr and his sister Bint al-Huda, a religious scholar and activist who spoke out against government oppression, were arrested. Reports indicate they were tortured before being executed by hanging on April 8, 1980. The government refused to return their bodies, fearing their graves would become rallying points for resistance. Al-Sadr's execution deepened Shiite opposition to Saddam, fueling movements that contributed to the Ba'athist government's eventual downfall. □



Boys sit next to a mural of Shiite clerics Mohammad Baqir al-Sadr, left, and Mohammad Sadiq al-Sadr, right, in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, April 6, 2013, painted over a portrait of former dictator Saddam Hussein.

Associated Press



**ONE LOVE FOUNDATION INC. HOSTS ITS
1ST ANNUAL PAWS-ITIVELY HILARIOUS
STANDUP COMEDY BENEFIT
IN ARUBA**

MARCH 21, 2025

**VIP \$125
GENERAL ADMISSION \$75**

All attendees receive
a gift bag

**VIP COCKTAIL HOUR
7 - 8:00PM
COMEDY SHOW
8:30 - 10PM
AFTER SHOW DANCE PARTY
10:30 - MIDNIGHT**

50/50 & RAFFLES



**Featuring Ray Ellin
of Aruba Ray's Comedy
and other stellar comedians
from major television shows**

**SHOW
WILL BE
PERFORMED
IN ENGLISH**

**100% OF PROCEEDS
ARE DONATED TO
STERILIZATION INITIATIVES
ON ARUBA**



Rwanda-backed rebels move deeper into eastern Congo as UN reports executions and rapes

By CHINEDU ASADU and JUSTIN KABUMBA

Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) —

Rwanda-backed rebels were expanding their presence in eastern Congo after capturing Goma, the region's major city, the U.N. said Friday, also expressing concerns over executions it learned were carried out by the rebels in recent days following a major escalation of their yearslong rebellion.

Congolese forces, meanwhile, repelled the rebels in their offensive towards South Kivu's provincial capital of Bukavu on Thursday, residents and local officials said.

The M23 rebel group has captured several towns after seizing neighboring Goma, a humanitarian hub critical for many of the 6 million people displaced by the conflict. They have said they will march to Congo's capital, Kinshasa, which is nearly 1,000 miles (around 1,600 kilometers) away.

The M23 group is the most potent of more than 100



Residents listen to M23 rebel soldiers in Goma, Democratic republic of the Congo, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

armed groups vying for control in Congo's mineral-rich east, which holds vast deposits critical to much of the world's technology. They are backed by around 4,000 troops from neighboring Rwanda, according to U.N. experts, far more than in 2012 when

they first captured Goma in a conflict driven by ethnic grievances.

Executions, rape as human rights crisis worsens U.N. human rights office spokesman Jeremy Laurence spoke at a briefing on Friday about the worsening human rights crisis in

the aftermath of the rebellion, including bomb strikes on at least two internally displaced persons camps that killed an unspecified number of people.

"We have also documented summary executions of at least 12 people by M23" from Jan. 26-28, Laurence

said, adding that the group has also occupied schools and hospitals in the province and are subjecting civilians to forced conscription and forced labor.

Congolese forces have also been accused of sexual violence as fighting rages on in the region, Laurence said.

"We are verifying reports that 52 women were raped by Congolese troops in South Kivu, including alleged reports of gang rape," he said.

Rebels repelled as young people volunteer to fight

An attack by the rebels in Kalehe territory, about 140 kilometers (about 85 miles) from the South Kivu provincial capital, on Thursday was repelled by security forces, said Lt. Gen. Pacifique Masunzu, who commands a key military defense zone in South Kivu. Congolese military bases in Bukavu were being emptied on Thursday to reinforce those along the way to the provincial capital, residents have told The Associated Press. □

Associated Press

Pakistan's favorable trade status depends on progress in human rights, media freedom, EU says

By MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) —

The European Union on Friday warned Pakistan that its status as a duty-free exporter to the bloc will continue to depend on the progress it makes in addressing concerns over civil and labor rights, and freedom of speech.

The warning came at the end of a visit to Islamabad by Olof Skoog, the EU's special representative for human rights, which the EU said was aimed at engaging Pakistan on "the most pressing human rights and labor rights issues and discussing Pakistan's plans to address them."

It said that trade benefits provided to Pakistan under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) depend on the "progress

made on addressing a list of issues, including on human rights," adding that "tangible reforms remain essential."

Pakistan's exports to Eu-

rope have doubled since 2014 when it was awarded the status of duty-free exporter under GSP+.

The EU statement said: "Pakistan has become the

largest beneficiary of GSP+, with Pakistani businesses increasing their exports to the EU market by 108% since the launch of the trade scheme in 2014."

It added: "As we approach the midterm of the current monitoring cycle, we encourage Pakistan to continue on its reform path as it prepares for reapplication under the upcoming new GSP+ regulation."

Skoog's visit had "highlighted areas of concern such as the application of blasphemy laws, women's rights, forced marriages and conversions, enforced disappearances, freedoms of expression, religion or belief, independence of the media, impunity for rights violations, due process and the right to a fair trial, civic space, and the death penalty."

The latest development came days after Pakistan's parliament passed a bill that critics argue is designed to suppress freedom of speech. The legislation, which has been approved by President Asif Ali Zardari, grants the government extensive powers to impose heavy fines and incarcerate social media users for spreading disinformation. Journalists rallied on Friday across Pakistan, vowing to resist any laws aimed at suppressing freedom of speech.

Pakistan's media has faced growing censorship in recent years, but the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says the law is necessary to limit the spread of disinformation by anti-state elements, including Pakistani Taliban and separatist groups.



Journalists remove a barbed-wire wire placed by police to stop them for marching toward parliament in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, during a rally to condemn a controversial 'Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act' bill passed by parliament that critics argue is designed to suppress freedom of speech.

Associated Press

Did you know about...**Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)**

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it

is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

**"Las Americas" roundabout**

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting

into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! ☐

Aruba Today is back to its regular format!

As our readers may have noticed, Aruba Today has been publishing a shorter version of our newspaper this past month, and this has caused some confusion among our readers.

We would like to firstly apologize for the confusion, and explain that the reason for this was due to a delay in our newsprint paper shipment. However, this delay has been resolved and Aruba Today will now continue with its regular 16-page format. Thank you for your patience and support!

The Aruba Today Team



Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members

SUNDAY FUNDAY



Fun 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

\$1,500 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Create memories at the industrial museum!



ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the



Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba. □

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very

long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, hand-crafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the wa-

ter, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the



island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra
T-Shirt when you earn
250 Slot Points on Sunday with
your **Players' Club card!**

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to *Etnia Nativa*, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, *The History of Alto Vista* by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving

in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and



Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed

from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past.

Important note: Due to roof renovations, the inside of the Chapel will be closed for the next few days. □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish.



Do you know your fish? The Department of Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are some-

times caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean. The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

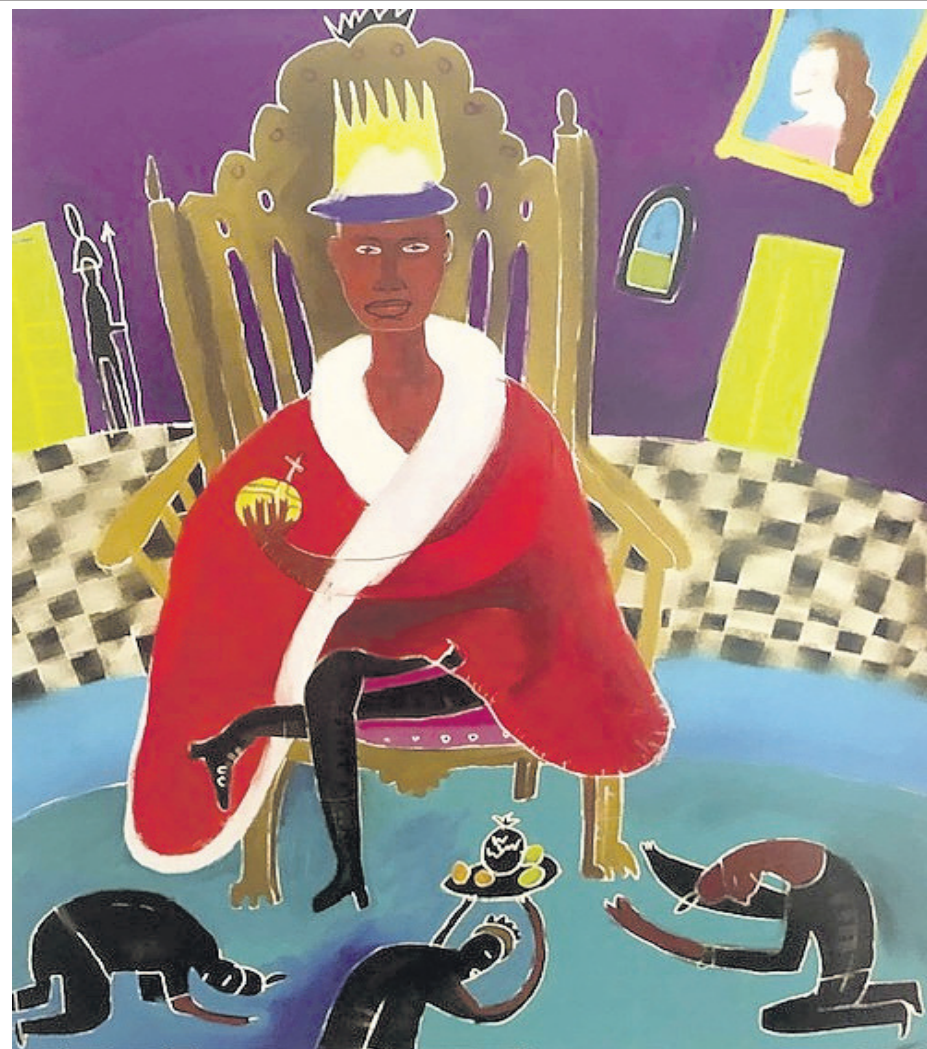
It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa

Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice. Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and



pushed him in a sack. Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack. What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in. Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked

up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.





For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the casca-

bel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cucularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing.

The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigroneuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



CROSSWORD

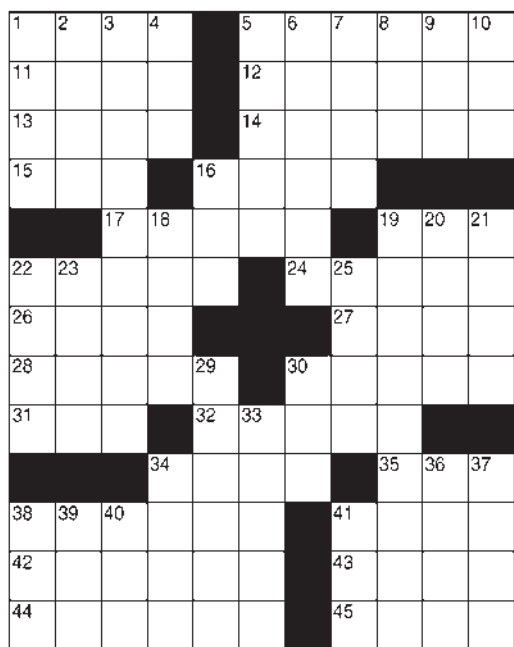
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

- 1 Longing author
5 Jar
11 Challenge
12 Aviator Earhart
13 Plow pullers
14 Block and tackle part
15 Pot part
16 Maid's target
17 "Fingers crossed..."
19 Spot to jot
22 Software test versions
24 Private's boss
26 Declare
27 New driver, often
28 Annoying folks
30 Rum drink
31 Donkey
32 City square
34 Linen source
35 Keg need
38 Find not guilty
41 Deep sleep
42 Spring
43 Steel ingredient

DOWN

- 1 Pop star
2 Fare carrier
3 Ones who are owed
4 Egg layer
5 Accept eagerly
6 Tickles
7 Wallop
8 Building wing
9 Tell tales
10 Put into words
16 Uno doubled
18 War backer
19 Quarry stalkers
20 Mature
21 Turn down
22 Mexican peninsula
23 Nights before
25 Whole range
29 Film edit
30 Receipt line
33 In a while
34 Depres-sion
36 Wild
37 Scathing reviews
38 Crunch targets
39 Barracks bed
40 Status —



1-31

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

W U U C L D W X V D C A E E A E C Z
Z X W L X A E X G D H W L R , Q G D E
X G D F S S E C L D D X Z T S J X S W
E D Q H W T W X F A H E A C G X .

— Z G W E E S E U . W U H D L

Cryptoquote: WHAT IS THERE
MORE KINDLY THAN THE FEELING BETWEEN
HOST AND GUEST? — AESCHYLUS

Cruise ship Schedule: February 01 - 08 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	AIDAPERLA CARNIVAL MIRACLE EXPLORER OF THE SEAS STAR PRIDE	09.00 08.00 16.30 06.00	22.00 22.00 **** 16.00	B C I G	1 1 1 1
SUN	02	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	18.00	I	-
MON	03	OCEANIA SIRENA RESILIENT LADY	07.00 09.00	18.00 23.00	B C	1 1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE CARNIVAL HORIZON NORWEGIAN VIVA	08.00 09.00 13.00	18.00 23.00 21.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	05	AIDABELLA CELEBRITY REFLECTION SEABOURN OVATION	10.00 10.30 07.00	22.00 21.00 19.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	06	ROTTERDAM AIDAMAR	08.00 10.00	23.00 20.00	B C	1 1
FRI	07	MARELLA EXPLORER 2 EMERALD PRINCESS	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SAT	08	NORWEGIAN JEWEL CORAL PRINCESS	07.00 09.00	20.00 18.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

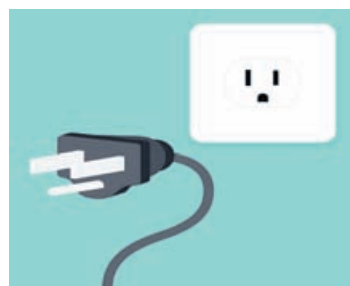
Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



11 years after a celebrated opening, massive solar plant faces a bleak future in the Mojave Desert



An array of mirrors at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating site is shown near Primm, Nev., Aug. 13, 2014.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — What was once the world's largest solar power plant of its type appears headed for closure just 11 years after opening, under pressure from cheaper green energy sources. Meanwhile, environmentalists continue to blame the Mojave Desert plant for killing thousands of birds and tortoises. The Ivanpah solar power plant formally opened in 2014 on roughly 5 square miles of federal land near the California-Nevada border. Though it was hailed at the time as a breakthrough moment for clean energy, its power has been struggling to compete with cheaper solar technologies. Pacific Gas & Electric said in

a statement it had agreed with owners including NRG Energy Inc. to terminate its contracts with the Ivanpah plant. If approved by regulators, the deal would lead to closing two of the plant's three units starting in 2026. The contracts were expected to run through 2039.

"PG&E determined that ending the agreements at this time will save customers money," the company said in a statement on its website.

Southern California Edison, which buys the rest of the power from the three-unit plant, is in discussions with owners and the U.S. Energy Department regarding a buyout of its Ivanpah contract.

The plant appears likely to become a high-profile

loser in the race to develop new types of clean energy in the era of climate change.

The Ivanpah plant uses a technology known as solar-thermal, or concentrated solar, in which nearly 350,000 computer-controlled mirrors roughly the size of a garage door reflect sunlight to boilers atop 459-foot towers. The sun's power is used to heat water in the boilers' tubes and make steam, which drives turbines to create electricity.

NRG said in a statement that the project was successful, but unable to compete with rival photovoltaic solar technology such as rooftop panels which have much lower capital and operating costs. Initially "the prices were competitive but advancements over time in photovoltaics and battery storage have led to more efficient, cost effective and flexible options for pro-

ducing reliable clean energy," NRG added.

A post on the PG&E website said that Ivanpah's "technology had worked on a smaller scale in Europe." But over time, it couldn't match the lower prices of photovoltaic technology. The plant has long been criticized for the environmental tradeoffs that came with large-scale energy production in the sensitive desert region. □



Marriott Aruba Surf Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$37,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$26,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$22,500
2 Bed Garden view \$18,500
3 Bed Ocean view \$36,000
2 Bed WK 51 Ocean view \$65,500
2 Bed WK 52 Ocean View \$65,500
2 Bed WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$20,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$15,500
2 Bed Ocean view \$14,500
2 Bed Garden view \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$45,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean front \$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$22,500
2 Bed Ocean view \$17,000
1 Bed Oceanfront \$13,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$11,500

** Destination Points \$4.50 per point

**We are the #1
Rental Timeshare
agent for Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

Contact:
stephanier@conciergerealty.com
888-888-2204 Ext 104

Website:
www.conciergerealty.com
Broker: Stephanie Reidel
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

St. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

**Like us on
Facebook**



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

ARUBA
TODAY

BONDIA
ARUBA

How to reach us!

Downtown



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday

Bloody and witty, 'Companion' explores what humanity means in an AI-powered world

By JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

"Iris, wake up!"

Early in "Companion," lovely Iris and her nerdy-nice boyfriend Josh are driving to a secluded lake house for a stay with friends. Iris wakes from a nap and lovingly tells Josh she was dreaming about him. They reminisce about how they first met at the supermarket. All those oranges tumbling onto the floor! Ha ha. In 20 minutes, absolutely everything about this sweet scene will be turned on its head in a terrifying and sinister manner. You will be surprised and shocked. Unless you saw the trailer, which reveals the whole thing.

And so we begin with a dilemma, dear moviegoer. "Companion," an exceedingly clever and entertaining sci-fi-horror-thriller-comedy by Drew Hancock in his feature debut, has more twists and turns than a corkscrew. But it's utterly impossible to write about the film without revealing the first of those twists.

So if you like coming in totally cold to a movie, then we're sorry to see you go, but stop reading! Otherwise, stay with us—we promise there'll be more surprises to come.



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Sophie Thatcher, left, and Jack Quaid in a scene from "Companion."

Moving on: Iris (Sophie Thatcher) and Josh (Jack Quaid) arrive at the estate. A nervous Iris stops at the door, worried that Josh's friends won't like her. He urges her to simply brighten up and act happy. Kat (Megan Suri), Josh's ex, greets them. She is gorgeous, and frosty to Iris. Eli (Harvey Guillén) and his handsome boyfriend Patrick (Lukas Gage) are nicer. Then there's Sergey (Rupert Friend), Kat's aloof Russian boyfriend—sugar daddy, really—and owner of the house. The password to his devices is Stalin's birthday, which tells you something. Things get dark, quickly. The next morning, some-

one dies. They will not be the first this is a horror movie. And suddenly Iris, caked in blood, finds out what everyone else knows about her, but she did not: She's a robot. Well, a sex bot. A custom "companion" programmed by Josh to be as docile as he wants. He can even control the level of her intelligence. Iris doesn't understand. "I feel things," she protests. Just the programming, Josh replies. Her tears? They come from a refillable reservoir in her body. But she has memories, she says like when they met! Oh, that scenario was chosen from a drop-down menu, she's told.

But now that we're all on the same page, the action can really begin. For reasons we won't detail here, Iris ends up on the run. What are the odds of a sex bot escaping her pre-programmed limitations? Suffice it to say that whatever you expect to happen, does not.

The supporting cast is excellent—especially Gage, as a Patrick chock full of surprises—but the leads are especially well cast. Thatcher manages to be, while, like, not actually human, way more relatable than the actual humans. And she's able to convey subtle changes in programming, too—like becoming

60% more intelligent, a neat trick.

And Quaid, with his full-cheeked Quaid-ian good looks, is an ideal choice for a "nice guy" who grows more odious by the minute. One of his lower points comes when he explains to Iris how the world seems to be "rigged against people like me."

"I don't even own you," he rails. "you're a (expletive) rental! I deserve so much more than this."

Hancock is obviously exploring the fertile area of artificial intelligence—the movie is set in a "not-too-distant future" where bots are an acceptable relationship choice and cars drive themselves, but most everything else looks the same. Like it could be us, just a few years from now. Yikes.

The irony, though, is that it's not the cool futuristic flourishes but good old-fashioned human intelligence that makes the movie work. The humor and tone could have gone so wrong, but they didn't. Kudos to Hancock for making the film crackle along wittily, drawing in even those of us prone to shudder at movies with a fast-rising body count. □

Associated Press

'Mad Men' star Jon Hamm to be honored as Harvard's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year

By MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press

Actor Jon Hamm, who rose to fame as ad executive Don Draper on the AMC series "Mad Men" and more recently appeared in " Fargo " and " Landman , " will be honored Friday night as the 2025 Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

The theater group, which dates to 1844 and claims to be the world's third-oldest still operating, said Hamm will receive his Pudding Pot award at a celebratory roast. Afterward, he will attend a performance of Hasty Pudding Theatricals'

176th production, "101 Damnations." "Let's hope our roast doesn't give him any heart palpitations he's had enough drama with that," Producer Willow



Jon Hamm arrives at the 76th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Woodward said in a statement, referring to the fate of Hamm's character in the last episode of the 2024 Paramount+ series " Landman . " "But with his work ethic, we're confident he'll take on our stage with as much grit as Texas oil fields. He's the perfect man to strike gold and earn his Pudding Pot this January." Hasty Pudding Theatricals gives the awards to people who have made lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment. Hamm is best known for starring in " Mad Men , " but he has had a storied acting career. Among his achieve-

ments, he received Emmy, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations for his portrayal of Sheriff Roy Tillman in the FX series " Fargo , " he has starred in several movies, including " Bad Times at the El Royale , " and he has hosted " Saturday Night Live " three times.

Other recent Man of the Year winners have included Barry Keoghan last year, Bob Odenkirk in 2023 and Jason Bateman in 2022. " Wicked " star Cynthia Erivo has been named Hasty Pudding Theatricals' Woman of the Year Award. She will receive her award Feb. 6. □

How the All-Star Game works: A breakdown of the NBA's new format

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA All-Stars have been selected. Next up: Assigning them to teams.

The 10 players designated as starters were announced on Jan. 23, the remaining 14 players designated as reserves were revealed Thursday and now, those 24 players will be drafted onto eight-player teams for the games that will be played on Feb. 16 in San Francisco.

TNT analysts and basketball greats Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith will draft the teams on Feb. 6. The eight-player teams will bear their names

- Team Shaq, Team Charles and Team Kenny.

They'll pick from this pool of players:

- LeBron James and Anthony Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers
- Donovan Mitchell, Evan Mobley and Darius Garland of the Cleveland Cavaliers
- Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown of the Boston Celtics
- Giannis Antetokounmpo and Damian Lillard of the Milwaukee Bucks
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Jalen Williams of the Oklahoma City Thunder
- Jalen Brunson and Karl-Anthony Towns of the Minnesota Timberwolves
- Cade Cunningham of the Detroit Pistons
- Anthony Edwards of the



San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama (1) reacts to a score against the LA Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025.
Associated Press

Minnesota Timberwolves

- James Harden of the Los Angeles Clippers
- Kevin Durant of the Phoenix Suns
- Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets
- Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors
- Pascal Siakam of the Indiana Pacers
- Tyler Herro of the Miami Heat
- Alperen Sengun of the Houston Rockets
- Jaren Jackson Jr. of the Memphis Grizzlies
- Victor Wembanyama of the San Antonio Spurs

How the tournament works

The games will be fast. Games are to 40 points; first one to reach that total wins. The two semifinal winners will meet in the All-Star final, that game also goes only to 40 points.

Voting format

There was a weighted formula to pick the 10 players designated as "starters." It was 50% fan vote, 25% media panel vote, 25% current player vote. NBA head coaches picked the 14 players designated as "reserves."

But the starter and reserve

columns won't mean much on game night, since there will be 15 different players starting five from each of the three teams and only nine players coming off the bench in those semifinal games.

How the tournament works
The Rising Stars event winner that tournament will be held Feb. 14, another four-team event made up of first- and second-year players will be the fourth team in the All-Star games on Feb. 16. That team will be called Team Candace, for Candace Parker.

Why the change

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has wanted a more competitive All-Star event for some time, and this change comes after the teams combined to score a record 397 points 211-186 was the final in last season's game at Indianapolis. The teams combined to take 289 shot attempts in last year's game, 94% of those being either inside the paint or beyond the 3-point line.

Coaching staffs

Kenny Atkinson of the Cleveland Cavaliers will coach one All-Star team, Mark Daigneault of the Oklahoma City Thunder will coach another, and two of their assistants one from each team will have the other teams under their direction.

Cleveland and Oklahoma City are sending their staffs to the game because those are the teams with the best records in the Eastern and Western Conferences.

Prize money

There is a prize pool of \$1.8 million for the All-Star Game.

Each player on the All-Star champion team gets \$125,000, each player on the runner-up team will get \$50,000 and the players on the teams eliminated in the semifinals will each get \$25,000. □

Max Scherzer agrees to a \$15.5 million, 1-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, AP source says



Texas Rangers starter Max Scherzer delivers a pitch during a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Sept. 14, 2024, in Seattle.

Associated Press

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

Max Scherzer is joining the Toronto Blue Jays, agreeing to a \$15.5 million, one-year contract on Thursday, according to a person with direct knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced and was pending a physical.

The 40-year-old Scherzer was limited to nine starts with Texas last year, going 2-4 with a 3.95 ERA. The three-time Cy Young Award winner opened the season on the injured list while he recovered from lower back surgery. He also was on the IL from Aug. 2 to Sept. 13 because of shoulder fatigue, and he missed the end of the season because of a left hamstring strain.

Scherzer joins a rotation that is fronted by Kevin Gausman, José Berríos and Chris Bassitt. The Blue Jays also have Bowden Francis coming off an impressive rookie season and Yariel Rodríguez, who signed a \$32 million, five-year contract last February.

The Blue Jays finished last in the AL East with a 74-88 record in 2024. They haven't won a playoff game since they were eliminated by Cleveland in the 2016 AL Championship Series. They were swept in the wild-card round in 2020, 2022 and 2023. □

Eagles are the new America's Team going into the Super Bowl against the Chiefs

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Move over, Dallas Cowboys.

There's a new and unlikely America's Team in the NFL at least for the Super Bowl. The Philadelphia Eagles have become the popular choice among many football fans who want to see the Kansas City Chiefs lose for various reasons.

Despite a fan base known for its obnoxious, unruly behavior and a coach who gets under the skin of many opponents, the Eagles are the last hope for the anti-Chiefs crowd.

A young man wearing a midnight green No. 26 Saquon Barkley jersey was greeted with "Go Birds!" chants as he walked through a theme park in Orlando two days after the Eagles beat the Washington Commanders 55-23 in the NFC championship game.

The group of friends saluting him included a Giants fan, a Dolphins fan and two Patriots fans. They're all rooting for Philadelphia against Kansas City even though none of them could sing "Fly! Eagles! Fly!"

"I hate the Eagles but they're the lesser of two evils," the long-suffering New Yorker said. "Plus, they have Saquon Barkley. We



Philadelphia Eagles fans hold a sign that reads "Go Saquon Go" during the second half of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

couldn't even win with him so I'm happy he's doing well in Philly. It's still painful to watch sometimes but I can't stand the Chiefs."

Some fans are simply tired of watching Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and the Chiefs hoist another Lombardi Trophy. Kansas City is seeking its fourth Super Bowl victory in its fifth appearance in six years while aiming to become the first team to three-peat in the Super Bowl era.

There's a perception that officials give the Chiefs the

benefit of many calls so that angers fans and some vocal media members. A pair of roughing the passer penalties on Mahomes in Kansas City's divisional round game against the Texans only fueled that notion. Then a questionable spot on Josh Allen's failed fourth down sneak in the win over Buffalo in the AFC title game sparked even more criticism.

SiriusXM radio show host Adam Schein called the officiating in the Bills-Chiefs game a "disgrace." ESPN

analyst and former NFL quarterback Dan Orlovsky said the ball placement on Allen's play was an "awful call and again a worse review."

Patriots fans don't want Mahomes and coach Andy Reid to get closer to the record six championships Tom Brady and Bill Belichick won together in New England.

Brady fans resent that Mahomes, a three-time Super Bowl MVP, is compared to No. 12 when he's still four rings away from tying him.

"Stop with the GOAT comparison already. Brady won seven. Mahomes needs one more to get past halfway," said a Tampa doctor who grew up in Boston.

Other fans, especially those who haven't enjoyed a victory parade in a long time or ever, are simply jealous of Kansas City's success. Many of those fans probably felt the same animosity toward the Patriots when they were winning.

All those commercials featuring Reid and Mahomes can annoy some fickle folks, making them turn against the Chiefs. Of course, it's difficult to watch any NFL game without seeing former Eagles center Jason Kelce pop up in one advertisement after another.

There's also the Travis Kelce factor.

The four-time All-Pro tight end happens to be dating the world's biggest pop star. Kelce's relationship with Taylor Swift has often dominated headlines and taken the spotlight off football.

That bothers some of the die-hards who complain about seeing television cameras pan over to Swift's reaction in a suite. While Kelce has endeared himself to Swifties, every famous couple has its share of haters. □

Owners of NBA's Pistons and NFL's Lions part of bid to bring WNBA team back to Detroit



The 2003 Detroit Shock WNBA basketball team poses at mid-court after being honored during halftime of an NBA basketball game between the Detroit Pistons and the Charlotte Hornets, Thursday, March 9, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit wants to bring the WNBA back to the Motor City, backed by an investor group led by the owner of the NBA's Pistons and NFL's Lions.

Pistons owner Tom Gores submitted the bid Thursday and it was announced Friday. The group includes Sheila Ford Hamp and her husband, the principal owners of the Detroit Lions; the chief executive officer and chair of General Motors Company; Hall of Famer and former NBA rookie of the Year Grant Hill; Lions quarterback Jared Goff and his wife; and others.

"For the WNBA this is home, and our bid represents an unprecedented opportunity for the league to come full circle and effect a long-hoped-for Detroit homecoming," Gores said in a statement. "No city is more prepared to embrace the team as a community asset that drives unity and

common ground."

The Detroit Shock were one of the WNBA's first expansion teams, winning three titles between 1998 and 2009. The Shock ranked in the top five for attendance for five straight seasons and led the league in that category for three consecutive seasons. Detroit set a single-game attendance record of 22,076 fans at Game 3 of the 2003 WNBA Finals.

The new team would play at Little Caesars Arena.

"Detroit is a sports town that loves its teams deeply and consistently shows up with unwavering passion," Gores said. "At a critical moment in the growth and development of the WNBA, it supported the hometown team more than any other franchise in the league. We're here to rekindle that legacy." □